

Senator Johnson's district. So what I am proposing to you today in the form of this amendment is not that you kill the bill, but that you take some constructive action to solve this problem and put everybody on an equal basis or at least on as equal a basis as I can think of. So what the amendment says is, instead of extending them to 1992, extend them to 1988. In 1988 they go out of existence. At the same time they go out of existence in a two-stage process. They switch over their taxing power to the local NRD taxing power so that by 1988 you do not have the conservation districts and if Senator Johnson's argument is that there are some additional problems that need to be taken care of there, then they will be taken care of by giving the local NRD the taxing power that the conservation districts had and let them pick up the programs of the conservation districts. Now that doesn't solve the problem of making the taxing authority of NRDs equal every place in the state because you're going to give those NRDs more taxing power than the other NRDs. But it does at least get rid of the conservation districts and it does have the advantage of having one entity coordinating all programs in that area instead of having seven or eight or nine different entities working against each other which was the problem that we sought to solve back in 1972 when we created the Natural Resource District system. So I'm not saying to you this is a perfect solution, but I am saying to you that this works towards a real solution rather than problem avoidance which is exactly what this bill is right now because all the bill does right now is extend the existence of those conservation districts for the third time over the years to 1992. I would ask for your support for the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, I put my light on immediately when Senator Johnson got up because I thought I was hearing the same song, third verse that Senator Beutler talked about. I had no idea that Senator Beutler had an amendment pending. I would agree completely with everything Senator Beutler said. Senator Beutler, Senator Vickers and I served on the Public Works Committee in our first years in the Legislature and we went through this issue of the predecessor to Senator Johnson with Senator Maurice Kremer and their district does have these groundwater conservation districts and they do like what they do and so we did extend them once and twice and